

# Jericho Walls Prayer Guide – March 2009

## **BUT GOD**

Dear Intercessors

We are living in challenging times. Yet, circumstances must not be allowed to change or influence a Christian's conduct. George Mueller once said: "No anxiety ought to be found in a Christian" (**Phil.4:6**). We have to, within our circumstances, live our lives in the peace of God, live holy lives, be peacemakers, live righteous lives, be light and salt and not become bitter. We find ourselves in times like these in the history of our country.

### **Prayer focuses: March – June 2009**

For the next few months we will specifically focus in prayer on areas of risk in society. I want to encourage you to plan for prayer focused on these specific aspects in your prayer times and in the prayer room. In March we will focus on the poor and needy of our country and the world, on famine and women at risk. In April we will focus in prayer on the upcoming elections. Will you not ask God how you can arrange for special times of prayer for our nation in your congregation or community during this month? In May we will focus mainly on the *10 Days* of night and day prayer, and the *Global Day of Prayer*. Please read more about these subjects in our special article on 24-7 Prayer focuses, specifically for usage in prayer watches.

### **Important dates from March – May 2009**

The *World Day of Prayer 2009* takes place on 6 March for women and for men on 7 March. Consider getting more information about this day of prayer and invite men and women to take part. On 20 March, we are calling on the whole country, for people to set themselves apart for a *National Day of Prayer* focusing on the upcoming elections. For more information about how and what you can do to organise such an event in your church or community, turn to 20 March in this Prayer Guide or contact us at the office tel.: 012 365 3213 or website: [www.jwipn.com](http://www.jwipn.com) or e-mail: [info@jwipn.com](mailto:info@jwipn.com). From 21-30 May 2009, thousands of people across the world will partake in the *10 Days* of night and day prayer, culminating in the *Global Day of Prayer* on 31 May 2009. Ask the Lord to show you how you can become involved in these different initiatives at your work and in your congregation or community.

### **God asks that we will pray**

Prayer comes from the heart of God. Prayer is not something that we brought forth. It does not begin with us. It begins with God. God created us as His representatives on the earth and He wants us to come to Him and ask Him to work in our world. Moreover, He is the one working in us to will and to work (**Phil.2:12-13**). In other words, He stirs up the desire to pray in our hearts and He is the one who makes us willing and able to pray. It is due to His power only that we can pray.

It is God who asks us to pray. It is not as if we developed the concept of prayer. God asks us to pray. But prayer and faith go together. God does not have a problem answering our prayers; He will, if we believe and if we ask. Do we believe that He can and will do what we ask of Him?

One of the main reasons why people doubt if their prayers are heard, is that they do not know if they are praying the will of God. One of the most important ways to pray the will of God is to pray the promises and commands of God in Scripture. Sometimes there are no direct Scripture verses or promises on specific issues, but when we read Scripture, we can clearly discern the heart of God. Scripture is very clear about the importance of love and forgiveness in our conduct; to be filled with grace, to be fair and do what is right, and that we will be willing to give. Just these few guidelines can help us know what to do in many situations. Pray until you know what His will is. Then ask in faith for that which you know is within His will. Even though it might take a while to find out His will, it is still the best way to follow. I can say that the majority of time spent in prayer consists of finding out and praying the will of God.

### **Commitment and surrender**

A lot of emphasis is nowadays put on 'commitment'. Everywhere we are asked to make a commitment. The Bible though, uses the word 'surrender'. There is a huge difference between the two. When speaking about commitment, I am in control, I can decide how much and how I want to commit. When I surrender, I give everything and then I no longer have control over it. Read more about this in our article on 'commitment and surrender'.

May God help you to surrender and not only commit!

Bennie Mostert

Managing Director: *Jericho Walls International Prayer Network*

Eph.3:20

### **What, where and when: National**

#### **6 March 2009: *Women's World Day of Prayer***

The *Women's World Day of Prayer* is a worldwide movement of Christian women to observe a common day of prayer each year. This year women, men and children of more than 170 countries will gather to pray, the theme being "*In Christ we are many Members, Yet One Body.*" For more information, contact: *Women's World Day of Prayer* (Sandra Pillay), P.O. Box 2002, Kempton Park, 2002. Tel.: 011 975 4598, fax: 011 975 2537. Websites: <http://www.worlddayofprayer.net/> or [www.wwdp.co.za](http://www.wwdp.co.za) or e-mail: [wwdp@telkomsa.net](mailto:wwdp@telkomsa.net)

#### **7 March 2009: *Men's World Day of Prayer***

Men are also gathering in South Africa to pray for the world to come to the light of Jesus and will gather this day in different venues and at different times, the theme being: *God's emigration plan*. For more information please contact: Ben Ferreira: cell: 082 901 4219, tel.: 011 919 9038 (o), 012 348 4966 (a/h), e-mail: [werelbiddag@absamail.co.za](mailto:werelbiddag@absamail.co.za)

#### **18-26 April 2009: *He's Alive* performance**

*Passion Play Ministries* of Cape Town will be putting on their annual performance of *He's Alive* at the Bellville Civic Centre. They are part of the *International Ministry* which reaches 140,000 people each year on three different continents (Africa, Asia and USA). They are an interdenominational ministry that focuses on inreach, as well as outreach. This year will be their 12th performance. For further information please contact Bronwyne Scott, cell: 084 769 7350 or David de Villiers, cell: 072 585 2913. Website: [www.passionplay.org.za](http://www.passionplay.org.za)

#### **24-26 April 2009: *The Mighty Men Conference***

*The Mighty Men Conference* will again take place from 24-26 April, 2009 at Shalom. The theme for 2009 is from **Galatians 4:28**, we are the '*children of promise*'. Please pray for the conference. *Shalom Ministries*, P.O. Box 373, Greytown, 3250. Tel.: 033 417 1695, fax: 033 417 1425. Websites: [www.shalomtrust.co.za](http://www.shalomtrust.co.za) or [www.mmc09.co.za](http://www.mmc09.co.za) or e-mail: [shalom@futuregtn.co.za](mailto:shalom@futuregtn.co.za)

### **What, where and when: International**

#### **18-19 April 2009: "*Just Pray NO!*" Ltd. *Worldwide Weekend of Prayer and Fasting***

The weekend of April 18 – 19, 2009 has been designated as the 19th Annual "*Just Pray NO!*" to drugs *Worldwide Weekend of Prayer and Fasting*. Since April 7, 1991 "*Just Pray NO!*" Ltd. has sought to unite Christians from around the world in intercessory prayer on behalf of the addicted and their families. Churches, ministries and community organisations can actively participate by following one or more of their suggested activities or by creating some of your own. For more information, visit the website: <http://www.justprayno.org/>

#### **6-7 June 2009: *World Weekend of Prayer for Children at Risk***

Last year God enabled over 4 million people in 100 countries to pray for the needs of the *Children at Risk* in the world. Join us during this time to pray for our *Children at Risk*, that God through His Spirit will move along the streets and amongst communities, surrounding the children with His love. Ask that His servants will be strengthened and grow in number to care for each child. For more information visit [www.viva.org](http://www.viva.org) or e-mail [pray@viva.org](mailto:pray@viva.org)

### **What's online**

**Website:** <http://www.freeenglishnow.com>

The *FreeEnglishNow (FEN)* website distributes CD's of the entire 16-lesson English course, as well as monthly lessons for downloading in TXT and MP3 for Handheld use. Spoken English lessons incorporate eight chapters from the book of Acts in modern English and include enough audio recordings of spoken English study for nine months. *FEN* reaches young professionals and university students largely untouched by the organised church in 188 countries.

**Website:** <http://www.unreached.org/index.php>

Read about a different unreached group every day. Learn about ways you can use the material from the site, free of charge. It is another excellent tool from the *Joshua Project* and highly recommended.

**Website:** [www.faithcomesbyhearing.com](http://www.faithcomesbyhearing.com)

The audio Bible ministry *Faith Comes By Hearing (FCBH)*, recently announced the availability of 7 audio New Testament recordings in Afrikaans, Chuj San Mateo Ixtatan, Javanese Caribbean, Kirghiz, Kuranko, Otomi Mezquital, and Thai. Individuals can download these new recordings, as well as other MP3 Bibles, at this website free of charge. These new recordings, which represent a potential audience of more than 105 million people on 4 continents, bring the total number of audio Scriptures available to 341 recordings in 287 languages. *FCBH's* goal is to record audio Bibles in 2,000 languages by the year 2016, thus creating the ability to reach 97% of the world's population.

**Website:** <http://estudysource.com>

*eStudySource* is the exclusive supplier of bestselling digital content in *e-Sword* format for over 5 million *e-Sword* users, and is a premier provider of the best digital resources in other formats. *eStudySource* provides Christians with the best digital Bibles, study helps, and inspirational resources, so that they might be inspired and equipped to understand and share God's Word.

**Website:** <http://www.atfp.org/pray/ways-to-pray/> and <http://www.atfp.org/pray/find-a-terrorist-or-terrorism-sponsor-to-adopt/>

Find online guidelines on why and how to pray for terrorists. They also offer a profile of someone involved in terrorism whom you can pray for.

### **Did you know?**

#### **Rotterdam, the Netherlands: Count your blessings!**

A recent study commissioned by the city council in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on the social benefit of Christian churches, suggests that if the churches were to stop their volunteer activities today, the city would go bankrupt. They save the city up to 130 million euro each year and contribute significantly towards creating social cohesion and integration. Half of regular church-goers – some 25,000 – are active volunteers, mostly spending more than eight hours each week on volunteer work. These activities include informational and educational courses, and social aid programmes. Volunteers offer emergency financial aid, run food banks and meals-on-wheels

programmes, assist those who are grieving, help with homework, teach language and computer lessons etc. (Source: Jeff Fountain, Hope for Europe).

### **22 March 2009: World water Day**

#### **Facts about water, drinking water, and water-related disease**

An estimated 1.1 billion people lack access to an improved water supply – approximately one in six people on earth. About 2.6 billion people in the world lack access to improved sanitation. Less than 1% of the world's fresh water (or about 0.007% of all the water on earth) is readily accessible for direct human use. A person can live weeks without food, but only days without water. The average American individual uses 100 to 176 gallons of water at home each day whereas the average African family uses about 5 gallons of water each day. Millions of women and children spend several hours a day fetching water from distant, often polluted sources. (Website: <http://www.water.org/waterpartners.aspx?pgID=916>).

#### **Mobile phones contained Kenyan polio outbreak**

A potential polio epidemic in Kenya has been monitored and contained using a mobile phone application called *EpiSurveyor*. There had been no cases of polio in Kenya for 21 years until a new case was detected among Somalian refugees in north-eastern Kenya two years ago. The success of the application in Kenya, as well as the prevalence of mobile phones even in the poorest nations, led the *World Health Organisation (WHO)* to expand the project to another 20 African countries. (Website: <http://www.scidev.net/en/features/how-mobile-phones-contained-kenyan-polio-outbreak.html>).

### **QUOTES**

The power of prayer has never been tried to its full capacity in any church. If we want to see mighty wonders of divine grace and power wrought in the place of weakness, failure and disappointment, let the whole Church answer God's standing challenge; "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knows not." James Hudson Taylor

Wherever the Church is aroused and the world's wickedness arrested, somebody has been praying. A. T. Pierson

Are you living for the things you are praying for? Austin Phelps

If anyone will rise up and devote himself to the work of prayer exclusively, how excellent that will be. God is waiting for such ones to work together with Him so as to enable Him to finish His work. Some Christians may ask why the Lord does not save more sinners, why He does not cause every Believer to overcome. I sincerely believe that He would undoubtedly do such works if people would only pray. Watchman Nee

All things being equal, our prayers are only as powerful as our lives. In the long pull we pray only as well as we live. A.W. Tozer

Prayer will become effective when we stop using it as a substitute for obedience. A.W. Tozer

Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance. It is laying hold of God's willingness. George Mueller

Faith in a prayer-hearing God will make a prayer-loving Christian. John Owen

Intensity is a law of prayer. God is found by those who seek Him with all their heart. Wrestling prayer prevails. The fervent effectual prayer of the righteous is of great force. Samuel Chadwick

Oh, the sacredness and power of prayer, if it takes possession of the heart and life! It keeps one constantly in fellowship with God. We can then literally say, "On thee do I wait all the day" (Ps.25.5). Let us be careful to consider not only the length of the time we spend with God in prayer, but the power with which our prayer takes possession of our whole life. Andrew Murray

### **24-7 Prayer watch focus: March-June 2009**

The prayer focuses on this page are to encourage those involved in a 24-7 house of prayer to focus on the same things at the same time in prayer. These are only guidelines and watch coordinators may add their own focuses as the Holy Spirit leads them. Will you not consider putting up these prayer pointers in your prayer room in creative ways, or use them in your quiet time? Also inform others and encourage them to pray for these issues during each of the monthly focuses. More information is available on these issues free of charge from our website: [www.jwipn.com](http://www.jwipn.com). Also remember to subscribe to our weekly *Prayer Alert* at [cape@jwipn.com](mailto:cape@jwipn.com) which covers more current issues in prayer on a weekly basis.

#### **March: The poor and needy; famine; women and children**

Who would not be overwhelmed by the crying need of people who are helplessly caught up in poverty, famine and the violence to which women and children are exposed? We cannot just look on, showing no mercy and saying they are responsible for the situation they are in. It is simply not the truth. Few of those who fall victim to these circumstances, do so because they are bad or irresponsible. Let us pray for these people during March.

#### **April: National elections**

God appoints governments. God gives a land to those who govern it. God removes bad governments (Jer.18:7-10). In April, let us call upon God to give us people who will govern in righteousness. Ministers, advisors, director-generals, and senior and other government officials need to be appointed. Pray that people will be appointed who love righteousness, truth and honour; wise men and women. Pray in faith. Do not look with the eyes of man. Look upon our country from a position of God's might and pray from His love and promises for our country. God is a God of hope and life. Pray for new hope and life.

#### **May: Global Day of Prayer**

On 21 March 2001, more than 40,000 people gathered at the Newlands Rugby stadium for a day of prayer and supplication. Since 2005 this day of prayer has grown into a *Global Day of Prayer* that repeats every year on Pentecost Sunday with 10 Days of night and day prayer preceding it. Last year, 215 of the 220 countries in the world partook in this day of prayer. This year we trust God for the remaining 5 countries to also take part. It is still a day of prayer and supplication. Let us, together with Christians across the world, seek the face of the Lord for revival, the salvation of the unsaved, the power of the Holy Spirit in the Church, for the transformation of communities and that God's hope will make a breakthrough in the dark places on earth.

#### **June: Focus on Children at Risk**

There is so much violence against children. Neglected children are seen even at rubbish dumps. We see the 7 million street children in Brazil, child soldiers whose eyes are lifeless, and children living with their parents through the traumas of war. Then think about child prostitution, child slavery and child labour. May we find time this month to sit down and just think about the needs of children. And may it be that God will give us tears to cry about the children. May our hearts be broken by the brokenness of the children. And may God be gracious to us so that we will pray with faith and tears and also do what our hands find to do.

#### **June-August: 90 Days of Blessing**

Every year after the *Global Day of Prayer* on Pentecost, the Church is encouraged to reach out to communities in practical ways, showing the love of the Lord Jesus in practical ways for 90 days. This year the focus is to reach out

to those living in 'noteworthy and neglected places'. Please pray with millions all over the world and find a way how you can become practically involved. There are practical tips at the prayer pointers of every day during this period to help you reach out to those who are forgotten.

## MARCH 2009

Sunday 1 March 2009

### **Memorise**

*Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name (Ps.86:11).*

**Lift up Your Name:** El Gibbor, we lift up Your Name as "Mighty God" over all the earth (**Isa.9:6-7**). May all people fear Your might above all else.

**Reveal His character:** Merciful and gracious God, let the Church arise, live and proclaim You as the One who is slow to anger, and abounding in mercy, that You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities (**Ps.103:8-10**).

**Declare His works:** We declare over the earth and its inhabitants: Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord, though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool (**Isa.1:18**).

**Cry for mercy:** Jesus Christ, have mercy, forgive our sins, soften our hearts and renew our minds.

### **Salvation focus: Christian Motorcyclists Association (CMA)**

CMA is a strong evangelical outreach mission ministry to the whole biking community. They would therefore appreciate your prayer covering when they go into the dark areas such as bike rallies, pubs, biker functions; where the bikers meet there will always be a presence of the CMA. Christian bikers are confronted with some seriously rough people, at times demonic situations, sexual perversion, drug and alcohol abuse. Pray for their protection. Please pray for the *Freedom Road Rally* outreach that ends today, their outreach over the Easter weekend and the rest of March. (Janet Kilian, CMA Western Province. Tel.: 021 982 2303 or fax: 021 982 0997. E-mail: [cmawp@absamail.co.za](mailto:cmawp@absamail.co.za)).

Monday 2 March 2009

**Election 2009 focus:** Pray for the registration process of voters that will take place within all the different areas and for polling stations to function effectively and accurately.

### **Salvation focus: Beggars**

Thousands of people in South Africa beg at street corners. Many adults use children to beg on their behalf and then take the money from them. Others beg at street corners because they gain a higher income this way than a day's wages would pay elsewhere. Pray for the salvation of beggars, both adults and children. Ask that they will have and take opportunities given to them to be established in full-time jobs. Pray that they will not rob others, but turn their lives around for good.

### **Poverty focus: Global poverty prayer week**

*Tearfund* is a Christian relief and development agency working with a global network of local churches to help eradicate poverty. In the next 10 years, they want to see 50 million people released from material and spiritual poverty through a worldwide network of 100,000 local churches. The first weekend in March marks a week-long prayer event, focusing to pray for breakthroughs worldwide. (Katy Lake, Enquiries Officer, *Tearfund*, 100 Church Road, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 8QE. Website: <http://www.tearfund.org> or e-mail: [enquiry@tearfund.org](mailto:enquiry@tearfund.org)). Let us join in prayer for God to turn the tide of the poor and needy worldwide. Continue to cry out for each person to have an opportunity to hear and accept the gospel of Jesus Christ.

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Tuesday 3 March 2009

**Election 2009 focus:** Ask for a decrease in crime, housebreaking, assault, murder and hi-jacking in our country, especially now, prior to the elections. Pray for the protection of all people, wherever they are, in their going out and coming in.

**Famine focus: Drought threatens 6 million kids**

Up to six million children under five years of age are living in impoverished, drought-prone districts and require continued and urgent preventive health and nutrition interventions in Ethiopia. About 126,000 children are already suffering from severe malnutrition and need urgent therapeutic care. The *World Food Programme* is seeking \$147 m to tackle a shortage of 183,000 metric tons of food to meet the country's needs. (Website: [http://www.news24.com/News24/Africa/News/0,,2-11-1447\\_2325839,00.html](http://www.news24.com/News24/Africa/News/0,,2-11-1447_2325839,00.html)). Cry out to the Lord to provide for this and for other nations with similar problems. Ask that they will also have opportunities to hear the gospel, and for both the physical and spiritual famine in their lives to be completely eradicated.

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Wednesday 4 March 2009

**Election 2009 focus:** Ask for discernment for poor and illiterate people, that they will not be swayed by opinions and false promises, but put their hope in God as their only Provider.

**Prison focus: *Prison Broadcasting Network***

Another 6 volunteers have joined the radio station and have now completed their training. In 2008 there were more requests from offenders for the radio station to be turned on in their cells than ever before. Give thanks to the Lord for answering prayers like these. Please pray that they will have favour with the authorities to approve this request and be able to implement it soon. (*Prison Broadcasting Network*, P.O. Box 281, Steenberg, 7947. Tel.: 021 701 0163 (Studio), cell: 082 488 8345 (Marius). Website: <http://www.prisonbroadcast.org.za> or e-mail: [info@prisonbroadcast.org.za](mailto:info@prisonbroadcast.org.za)).

**Men-2-Pray: Restoring the family altar**

Statistics show that 81% of married couples who read the Bible together daily, stay together. These families also live together in greater peace. This percentage changes drastically where Christian couples do not do it.

In the business world and society today, it is quite challenging to get a family together for prayer and to discuss and meditate on the application of the Word. The most difficult place to be a Christian (with a few exceptions), is within your own family. Yet, our home is a place where we should feel safe and be ourselves. If it can work here, it can work more easily 'out there'. The following are a few guidelines to help you restore your family altar.

- Try to find at least two opportunities per week to gather for a time of prayer. It will not happen by itself. It is a choice. Some families find it easy to meet almost on a daily basis. Others prefer gathering in the morning and yet others in the evening. In the same way you plan your holiday in such a way that everything works out for everyone, you have to make decisions for your family altar to work!
- Make sure each family member bring his/her Bible when you come together.
- Usually the head of the home will read a part from Scripture and then present an opportunity for the others to share their thoughts. Family members can take turns to read from Scripture and facilitate a time of discussion. It helps if the responsible person for that day does a little preparation beforehand.
- When discussing a Scripture verse, try to ask practical questions on how it is applicable to real life. Often something will become clear that has been an issue that you as family or members in your family have struggled with in their own lives. This can become a point of prayer when concluding your time together.

- It is not wrong to have a special reading from another Christian book or a Daily Devotional, but reading from Scripture must remain central. We can easily shirk our responsibility of reading the Bible ourselves by relying on what others think and write about it.
- Give opportunity for prayer. First discuss some issues you want to pray about. It can be personal, about school, concerning a parent's work, an issue taken from the newspaper or praying for the country. Do not forget to pray for other countries, for the unreached and their needs. Each one can choose something to pray for to make sure all have a chance to pray.
- Pray for your local congregation, the spiritual leaders, for revival in the church, government, missionaries and the increase of God's Kingdom.
- It is a good idea to keep a prayer journal where you as a family can write down your prayer requests during the course of one year. Write down the request and the date on which you prayed. You will be surprised when going through these notes at the end of the year, how many of your prayers God has answered.
- Sometimes relationships in the family can be strained because of something that may have happened. First sit down and try to talk about those things causing stress and distance. Pray about it. Try not to accuse or preach to each other in prayer. No family can function properly without the words "I am sorry" and "Forgive me". Forgiveness is part of the essence of the gospel. Even when you differ and do not find a solution, pray and ask the Lord to show you a solution through the Holy Spirit.
- In many families there are one or two members who may not be fully committed to the Lord. Some may even be unsaved or very rebellious. Do not force them to pray or even read from the Bible, but do ask them to join the meeting. Do not judge them. They must never feel they are inferior or unworthy sinners that will end up in hell. Show them that you love them. If they ask questions just to be difficult, listen to them and if you do not have a good answer, admit it. Do not try to have all the answers. Do not become involved in an argument. Say that you will think and pray about it. Show compassion for them in the same way God shows mercy to you, and be patient.
- Remember, the family altar and times of prayer never replace your personal quiet time.

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Thursday 5 March 2009

**Election 2009 focus:** Pray for all those responsible for maintaining law and order, e.g. police, traffic department, security companies, to continue to do so without hesitating, with great authority and despite difficult circumstances.

**Health focus: Lowest life expectancy**

Life expectancy is the average number of years a newborn infant can expect to live under current mortality levels. South Africa holds 10<sup>th</sup> position in the ten countries with the lowest life expectancy in the world, namely 42.37 years. Swaziland, Botswana, Lesotho, Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Liberia precede South Africa in this order (Top 10 of everything in the world, 2008). All of these countries except for Liberia are in Southern Africa. Cry out to the Lord to turn the tide of death at the southern point of Africa, once and for all. Pray for these millions dying so untimely, to come to Christ.

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Friday 6 March 2009

**Election 2009 focus:** Pray for all those in positions of authority, e.g. government, business, entertainment and sport industry etc. not to take or pay bribes or become involved in illegal business transactions to the detriment of other people.

**Prayer focus: Women's World Day of Prayer**

The *Women's World Day of Prayer* is a worldwide movement of Christian women to observe a common day of prayer each year. This year women, men and children of more than 170 countries will gather to pray, the theme being "*In Christ we are many Members, Yet One Body.*" Give thanks to the Lord for gathering people to pray and

for listening to their prayers. Pray especially for meetings that will take place in schools, prisons, hospitals and old age homes. (*Women's World Day of Prayer* (Sandra Pillay), P.O. Box 2002, Kempton Park, 2002. Tel.: 011 975 4598, fax: 011 975 2537. Website: [www.wwdp.co.za](http://www.wwdp.co.za) or e-mail: [wwdp@telkomsa.net](mailto:wwdp@telkomsa.net)).

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Saturday 7 March 2009

**Prayer focus: Men's World Day of Prayer 2009**

Men are also gathering in South Africa to pray for the world to come to the light of Jesus and will gather today in different venues and at different times, the theme being: *God's emigration plan*. Please pray that God will touch the hearts and minds of men gathering for prayer today. Pray that they will realise and take up their godly role in their families, the business world and as prophets to the nations. (Ben Ferreira: cell: 082 901 4219, tel.: 011 919 9038 (o), 012 348 4966 (a/h), e-mail: [wereldbiddag@absamail.co.za](mailto:wereldbiddag@absamail.co.za)).

**Women and children focus: Iraq**

Iraqi housemaid Um Haidar wears a black scarf as a sign of mourning since her shop assistant husband was gunned down two years ago. Official figures estimate that one in six women in the age group of 15 to 49 is widowed. The real battle is to put food on the table for the children, with no husband to support them. (Website: <http://iafrica.com/news/features/892536.htm>). Continue to cry out for the plight of women and children across the world. Ask that God will intervene in millions of similar situations and literally draw people into His kingdom by providing for them in their felt needs. Pray for the Church in surrounding countries to reach out in practical ways to widows and children.

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Sunday 8 March 2009

**Memorise**

*Blessed is the man who makes the Lord his trust, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods (Ps.40:4).*

**Identity: Created to love ... purposefully**

*Jesus said to him, "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: "you shall love your neighbour as yourself" (Matt.22:37-39).*

**Take a look around you:** Someone once said you are only a volunteer once you have volunteered. This means that you are free to choose anything you want, but once you have chosen it, you have no option other than complete that for which you have volunteered. Something of this is true in the Christian life as well. We have a free choice whether we want to serve God. Yet, once we have chosen Jesus Christ as Saviour, there are certain things we have to do in order to complete the race we have signed up for. God is full of love and grace towards all people, but He is a jealous God. He wants us to love Him, to be dedicated, separated and consecrated to Him alone.

**Take a look inside you:** Do you serve God on your own conditions? He received you unconditionally. How do you feel about the conditions you impose on others and on God? Are they really necessary or legitimate? Can you love and trust God unconditionally as He does with you?

**Take a look at God:** Father God, forgive me for imposing conditions on how I serve You. I realise You did not hold anything back when You gave your Son. Help me to give, love and serve wholeheartedly like You!

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Monday 9 March 2009

**Election 2009 focus:** Pray for all those in political positions, to faithfully continue carrying out their responsibilities and not become negligent. Pray for all those in governmental posts, in the different departments, to remain faithful in fulfilling all their responsibilities regarding the elections.

**Salvation focus: Unemployed**

Thousands of men are struggling to find jobs to provide for their families. Many have an extended family depending on them for an income. Please pray for men and women who are breadwinners to find good and decent jobs. Ask that they will be faithful in going to work, do an honest day's work and really earn their pay. Pray that those that do not believe will turn to Christ in the workplace as a result of the testimony of someone.

**Salvation focus: Jewish people to encounter Christ**

From 10-11 March, the Jewish people commemorate the fast of Esther and the festival of Purim. According to the history recorded in the Book of Esther, God delivered the Israelites as a nation from their death sentence. Consider reading through the book of Esther this week and pray for the many Jewish people to also come to the understanding of Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Redeemer from everlasting death. Ask for Christians to testify to Jewish people of everlasting life in Christ during this time. (*Christian Friends of Israel*. E-mail: [allwiese@lantic.net](mailto:allwiese@lantic.net), tel.: 012 361 1437, source: [http://www.everythingjewish.com/Purim/Purim\\_origins.htm](http://www.everythingjewish.com/Purim/Purim_origins.htm)).

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Tuesday 10 March 2009

**Election 2009 focus:** Pray for Believers to hear God's voice on how to pray and what to do concerning the upcoming elections. Ask that Christians will be honest in repenting of wrong attitudes in their own hearts and especially selfish prayers or desires.

**CRY OUT FOR THOSE WITHOUT A VOICE**

**Declare the truth:** *"Because of the oppression of the weak and the groaning of the needy, I will now arise," says the Lord. "I will protect them from those who malign them" (Ps.12:5).*

**Child prostitution:** This is the sexual exploitation of a child for remuneration in cash or kind. Ten million children worldwide are engaged in a facet of the sex industry and at least one million (mostly girls), become prostitutes every year. In Thailand, 10-12 year old girls service men in the sex industry. In South Africa, child prostitution amounts to 40,000. (*30 Days of Prayer for the Voiceless*, e-mail: [photogenx.kona@gmail.com](mailto:photogenx.kona@gmail.com)).

**Turn the tide in prayer:** Father God, please arise and defend children exploited by prostitution. Raise up people with influence who will take a stand on this exploitation and favour them with Your grace to turn this tide. We ask for those exploiting children to come to salvation in Christ Jesus.

**WWJD (What would Jesus do?):** Find out more about the prevalence of child prostitution in your city/town/community. Put together this information to present to your church, workplace or area of influence. Ask God to show you scriptures to pray and proclaim over the different situations concerning child prostitution and encourage people to take up their position in prayer over these issues.

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Wednesday 11 March 2009

**Election 2009 focus:** Pray for Believers to be relentless in pleading the promises of the Bible as the will of the Father concerning the elections and our country. Ask that people will pray with confidence, without condemnation and not be motivated by fear.

**CRY OUT FOR THOSE WITHOUT A VOICE**

**Declare the truth:** *And because the Lord had closed her womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her (1 Sam.1-2:11).*

**Barrenness:** This is when a woman is incapable of conceiving or unable to become pregnant. About 50-80 million women worldwide suffer from infertility. It is important to know because women in poorer countries are generally held responsible for reproductive failure which may result in divorce, husbands taking a second wife, domestic violence and economic abandonment. Many causes of infertility are largely preventable such as sexually transmitted diseases, poor hygiene and infections occurring during abortion. (*30 Days of Prayer for the Voiceless*, e-mail: [photogenx.kona@gmail.com](mailto:photogenx.kona@gmail.com)).

**Turn the tide in prayer:** Father God, please comfort the hearts of millions of barren women with the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Answer the prayers of millions crying out to You, and raise up a new generation of children 'given by God' for Your purposes.

**WWJD (What would Jesus do?):** Make a special effort to pray for couples who cannot have children, asking God to touch them and bless them. Encourage those having difficulty to fall pregnant.

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Thursday 12 March 2009

**Election 2009 focus:** Pray that people will also truly worship and thank God in their prayers for what He has done so far. Ask God to pour out His Spirit of supplication and prayer on all Believers to take up their spiritual position as watchmen over our country.

### **CRY OUT FOR THOSE WITHOUT A VOICE**

**Declare the truth:** *You are to be holy to me because I, the Lord, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own (Lev.20:26).*

**Pornography:** The pornography industry is a \$57 billion global business. Child pornography alone generates \$3 billion annually and 75 million people globally visit pornographic websites each year. A staggering 47% of Christian men say pornography is a major problem in their homes. (*30 Days of Prayer for the Voiceless*, e-mail: [photogenx.kona@gmail.com](mailto:photogenx.kona@gmail.com)).

**Turn the tide in prayer:** Father God, You are holy! Forgive us, the Church, for our unwillingness to seek You for deliverance from pornography! Please will You intervene and deliver your people from the hands of the enemy. Please deliver also the children and cause these websites and networks to be exposed and shut down.

**WWJD (What would Jesus do?):** Be honest before God about any form of attraction to pornography in your own life. Pray for the leaders in your church and community that God will help them to be set free from temptation and addiction to various forms of pornography.

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Friday 13 March 2009

**Election 2009 focus:** Pray for the youth of the country, that they will have godly insight and discernment when listening to political leaders. Ask for Believers from all races to take hands and begin to fast and pray together on a regular basis.

### **Community upliftment: Valcare Trust**

*Valcare Trust* is a Christian non-profitable organisation with the aim to reduce poverty in the Paarl Valley. Their function is to act as information and network organisation, providing their services to churches, projects or organisations, businesses and other service providers. Give thanks to the Lord for those who are willing to reach out in projects to better the physical circumstances of those in this area. Ask for more to become involved in this project and that much fruit will come from it. (*Valcare Trust*, 2 Louie Street, Paarl, 7646. Tel.: 021 872 2365, fax: 021 872 2376. Website: [www.valcare.org.za](http://www.valcare.org.za) or e-mail: [admin@valcare.org.za](mailto:admin@valcare.org.za)).

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Saturday 14 March 2009

### **Youth focus: Teens and children**

Compared to adults, the youth of South Africa experience double the rate of violence. Children and youths in South Africa are vulnerable because of the violent communities they live in. They are often victims of violence but

they also live with violence, meaning they begin to accept violence as a way to solve problems. (*HEARTLINES*, tel.: 011 771 2540. Website: <http://www.heartlines.org.za> or e-mail: [info@heartlines.org.za](mailto:info@heartlines.org.za)). Give thanks to God for many initiatives already running and making a difference. Ask the Lord how you or your church can join in similar activities.

### **Youth focus: Cambodia**

Youth delinquency is a major problem in Cambodia today. It is common for parents to give up their rebellious children through public announcements. Pray for a strong outreach to the youth. Pastors throughout Cambodia are working to build a stronger prayer force. Pray that many people will be called to pray and trust God to turn the tide in their nation. (*Ethnos Ministries*, #4-2604 Enterprise Way, Kelowna BC V1X 7Y5 CANADA. Website: <http://www.ethnosministries.org/prayerfocus/FebPF.pdf> or e-mail: [info@ethnosministries.org](mailto:info@ethnosministries.org)).

### **Testimony**

#### **Myanmar orphans reaching out**

A number of Christian orphanages have been started in Myanmar in recent years. In 2004, one orphanage accommodating 30 children was able to build a strong, two-story building to replace their dilapidated shack. Before the cyclone hit in May, the villagers discriminated against the children because they were Christians in a Buddhist society. When the cyclone struck, the village and neighbouring areas were badly ravaged, but the orphanage building stood firm among other houses that had collapsed. When the orphans saw what was happening, they opened their doors and welcomed the neighbours inside. They even shared their rice with them and the rest of the village that didn't have access to food. They were even able to pump and purify drinking water for 1,000 people in the village because of their generator. They were a testimony to their Buddhist neighbours (*Global Prayer Update - September 2008. Operation Mobilization*. Website: <http://www.omusa.org>).

Sunday 15 March 2009

### **Memorise**

*For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace (Rom.6:14).*

### **Identity: Created to ... love**

*Jesus said to him, "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: "you shall love your neighbour as yourself" (Matt.22:37-39).*

**Take a look around you:** What does it really mean to love someone? There are many possible answers to this question, but watching a person in love or passionate about something sheds a little light on part of the answer! Their actions, mannerisms and conduct change. The time and effort they spend on that special someone or something increase. More than words, their actions literally speak volumes of the passion they have in their hearts. This can be true for a couple in love, a mother and child, someone being promoted to a long awaited position. When we see these actions of someone obviously in love, we call it passion. Even when a mother is tired at night, she still gets up and feeds the baby, because she loves the child. How does your life show your love for God? How do you respond when someone blasphemes His Name? Do you remain seated in a violent movie or one showing explicit sex scenes? Walking out and priding yourself on living a better life than others is not good. But taking a stand for what is right in a way that motivates others to follow you in what is right, is the way to set cold hearts on fire again for God.

**Take a look inside you:** Do my actions influence the way people view God? Do I show the passion I have for God in simple ways in everyday life?

**Take a look at God:** Father God, forgive me for compromising in so many areas of my life. Thank you for stirring up my conscience to seek out more ways to show You my love in a way that will also turn the hearts of others to you.

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Monday 16 March 2009

**Election 2009 focus:** Pray that Christians will not criticise, but take up their godly responsibility to pray God's will and purposes to prevail for the upcoming elections. Pray that God will open the eyes of especially the poor and needy to realise the true reality of the current situation in the country and not fall prey to manipulation.

**Salvation focus: Child headed households**

Many families in poor and needy areas are headed by children from ages as young as 9, the main reason being parents dying from HIV/AIDS or related sicknesses. The responsibility to find food and provide shelter for those younger than they is an enormous and unthinkable task for such a young child. Pray for these children to have opportunities to hear and accept the gospel. Ask for the local and neighbouring churches to start feeding programmes to provide in the basic needs of these children.

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Tuesday 17 March 2009

**Election 2009 focus:** Pray for people from across race, language and denominational groups to gather and pray for God's mercy and grace upon our country. Pray for young and old to come together and begin to pray and fast for both spiritual and practical breakthroughs in our country.

**CRY OUT FOR THOSE WITHOUT A VOICE**

**Declare the truth:** *So she named the Lord who spoke to her, "You are El-roi"; for she said, "Have I really seen God and remained alive after seeing him?" (Gen.16:13).*

**Victims of incest:** This means sexual intercourse or other sexual activity between persons so closely related that marriage between them is legally or culturally prohibited. About 90-95% of all sexual abuse cases go unreported. About 94% of child rape victims under the age of 12 are abused by a family member or an acquaintance. In East Africa 9 out of 10 girls are abused by people whom they trust most. One third of abused and neglected children will later abuse their own children. (*30 Days of Prayer for the Voiceless*, e-mail: [photogenx.kona@gmail.com](mailto:photogenx.kona@gmail.com)).

**Turn the tide in prayer:** Father God who sees all things, please bring justice to victims of incest. We pray for the protection and health of children who live under this threat and that this hidden sin would be exposed and eliminated.

**WWJD (What would Jesus do?)** Find out if there is a child shelter nearby in your vicinity and consider volunteering to help them on a regular basis. Take time to listen to the story of victims, pray for them and care sincerely for them.

**Prayer focus: Jericho Walls International Prayer Network**

Please pray today for each volunteer working at the different offices of *Jericho Walls Prayer Network* across the country. Ask for their safety, strength and health. Also pray for God to provide in their practical and physical needs. Please pray today for every prayer project to prepare the Church for taking up its position in prayer for the elections. Ask for God's provision financially and for favour with Believers across our country to mobilise others to cry out to the Lord in prayer for our nation and country. (*Jericho Walls International Prayer Network*, Private bag X22, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040. Tel.: 012 365 3213, fax: 012 365 3214. Website: <http://www.jwipn.com> or e-mail: [info@jwipn.com](mailto:info@jwipn.com)).

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Wednesday 18 March 2009

**Election 2009 focus:** Pray for all involved in administrative positions/responsibilities concerning the elections. Pray that God will guide the *Independent Electoral Committee* in their decision making for the upcoming elections.

## CRY OUT FOR THOSE WITHOUT A VOICE

**Declare the truth:** *All my bones shall say, "O Lord, who is like you? You deliver the weak from those too strong for them, the weak and needy from those who despoil them" (Ps.35:10).*

**Exploitation of labouring females:** This is when women work too long, too hard and too much, especially doing back-breaking manual labour. Out of the 550 million poor working in the world, an estimated 330 million (60%) are women. An African peasant woman typically works 16 hours a day, trudging long distances to fetch firewood, water, food etc. Worldwide, over 60% of people working in family enterprises without pay are women. (*30 Days of Prayer for the Voiceless*, e-mail: [photogenx.kona@gmail.com](mailto:photogenx.kona@gmail.com)).

**Turn the tide in prayer:** Father God, please rescue the poor from those expecting unfair labour from them. Please raise up the fear of Your Name in the hearts and minds of business owners, within family structures and in governments. Please reveal Yourself to these women as their loving Heavenly Father in their difficult situation.

**WWJD (What would Jesus do?):** Reflect on the biblical concept of work and appropriate rest. Ask the Lord to also apply it to your own life and encourage others to do the same. Continue to pray for those in poor conditions having to earn their income/food in severe difficulty.

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Thursday 19 March 2009

**Election 2009 focus:** Pray that the wickedness of people with evil intent will be exposed. Pray that the plans of the enemy to destroy the country will be stopped and not come to pass at all. Ask that those with evil intent will radically come to salvation in Jesus Christ.

## CRY OUT FOR THOSE WITHOUT A VOICE

**Declare the truth:** *The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exalt over you with loud singing (Zeph.3:17).*

**Eating disorders:** This is a compulsion where a person's eating habits damage his or her health. Eating may be excessive (overeating), too limited (restricting), or present in cycles of bingeing and purging. Up to 70 million people worldwide struggle with eating disorders, 90-95% of which are women. Eating disorders have been diagnosed in girls as young as seven. (*30 Days of Prayer for the Voiceless*, e-mail: [photogenx.kona@gmail.com](mailto:photogenx.kona@gmail.com)).

**Turn the tide in prayer:** Father God, please reveal Your truth to the hearts and minds of every person struggling with an eating disorder. Show them the purpose and beauty of Christ as a treasure in their hearts and help them to embrace themselves as Your beloved bride. Please also stir up the Church to address this issue and proclaim Christ as a deliverer from all trouble and fear.

**WWJD (What would Jesus do?):** Ask the Lord to show you how to reach out to someone who may be struggling with an eating disorder. Pray for them on a regular basis and sensitively encourage them (not accuse/make them feel guilty) to embrace freedom in Christ until they have a breakthrough. Though God can do a miracle in an instant, forming new habits may take several months and even years.

## ARTICLE: *National Day of Prayer for the Elections: 20 March 2009*

There is no doubt that the 2009 national election is extremely important. As the Church we have the responsibility to pray. The power to control the course of world events is in God's hand. He removes kings and sets up other kings (**Dan.2:22**). The NKJV version of the Bible says: "He changes times and seasons." He bestows insight upon the wise. God's plan for the future lies hidden from man's scrutiny, but is fully known to Him. Authorities come from God and have been placed there by God (**Rom.13:1**). Our responsibility is to ask the Lord for a government appointed by Him to rule in a just and responsible way. We have to pray for kings and all in authority so that we can live a peaceful life (**1 Tim.2:1-3**). As the Church we are not to complain but to ask the Lord to intervene also in the political affairs of our nation.

We want to encourage Christians nationwide to cry out to God, lay hold of Him (**Isa.64:7**). *National Initiative for Reformation in South Africa (NIRSA)* asked for a day of prayer on 20 March. Consider a 3-day fast (18-20 March)

and encourage churches in your community to join in fasting and prayer for our nation. Ours is not the task to criticise, condemn or judge. Our task is to pray and make sure we vote in a responsible way.

For more prayer pointers to use in your prayer groups or prayer room, visit our website at: [www.jwipn.com](http://www.jwipn.com) or e-mail: [info@jwipn.com](mailto:info@jwipn.com)

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Friday 20 March 2009

**Election 2009 focus:** Pray for young people to cry out to God for His power through salvation to break through in the country during this time. Ask for young people to set an example of godly lives to their peers that will lead others into the Kingdom of God.

**Prayer focus: *National Day of Prayer***

Today is the *National Day of Prayer* for the upcoming elections in our country. Christians from around the country will gather today to pray that God will remember us and restore our nation to have peace, a future and hope. That we will call upon Him and go and pray until He listens to us. That we will seek Him and search out His purpose until we find Him (**Jer.29:11-14**).

Pray today:

- That God will give us a government that will honour Him.
- That God will give us a government that will have the well-being of our nation at heart.
- That God will give us a government and enable them to address the issues of the day and take a clear stand for godly principles.
- That God will protect us from bloodshed and violence.
- That the fear of the true and living God will come into the hearts of all people.

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Saturday 21 March 2009

**Stewardship focus: *World Water Day***

The *U.N.* has designated March 22 (tomorrow) as *World Water Day*. The goal is to create awareness of the world water crisis, and the aim to reduce by half the percentage of people who lack access to safe (clean) drinking water and basic sanitation. Experts predict that by 2015, 2.1 billion people will still lack basic sanitation. (Websites: <http://www.worldwaterday.org/> or <http://www.v2v.net/actions/world-water-day-2009> or <http://waterbringslife.wordpress.com/2008/03/31/world-water-day-2009-idea/>). Pray for a raise in worldwide investment in the preservation of water resources for the future.

**Poverty focus: *Women***

Approximately one billion women and children in developing countries live in absolute poverty, and their condition is likely to deteriorate further in the next half century if the current poverty trends do not ease. (Website: <http://tahirih.org/tahirih/howtohelp/assets/Statistics%20on%20Women%20Worldwide.doc>). Pray to the Lord for these conditions to be turned around soon. Ask for wisdom for governments to implement practical measures to provide relief in such situations. More than anything, let us continuously cry out to the Lord for the salvation of large numbers of people, for His spiritual and physical restoration to turn the tide of poverty in all nations.

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Sunday 22 March 2009

**Memorise**

*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful (Heb.10:23).*

### **Identity: Created to love ... the Lord**

Jesus said to him, "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: "you shall love your neighbour as yourself" (Matt.22:37-39).

**Take a look around you:** In the western culture of today, we are not used to having kings and queens any more. Therefore the ancient tradition of bringing honour to a person of importance is not so familiar to this generation. Yet, having a king/queen or Lord is a serious issue. Should this person come to town, everything comes to a standstill. Everyone wants to see the king/queen. Weeks after the visit, they will still be talking about it. Yet, every Sunday as we go to meet with our Lord Jesus Christ, we find little reverence in the hearts of Believers. Many come late. Others have excuses why they stay home. They blame the worship team or preacher for not giving them that 'something' they were looking for. The question is though: do we go with expectations to meet with our heavenly Father and Bridegroom through the powerful working of the Holy Spirit? You see, the individual can still encounter God, because God always meets a person that hungers and thirsts after Him.

**Take a look inside you:** What is your attitude and conduct when attending church and other Christian meetings? Do you believe God can meet with YOU despite – in your opinion – a poor sermon or unfulfilling worship? Do you fear God as your Lord? A practical tip: when you attend meetings, have a note book and pen ready and jot down what God is saying to you. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you as you listen to the sermon or lecture – in this way you will *always* find something of great value to you.

**Take a look at God:** Father God, please forgive my prejudice and ignorance of who You are. Change my heart; renew a right spirit within me. I want to revere You as my Lord above all things.

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Monday 23 March 2009

**Election 2009 focus:** Pray for Christians in the marketplace to start prayer groups that will pray for the elections and the country on a regular basis. Ask for employees and employers to gather before God in the same meetings, crying out for His purposes to prevail during this time and to continue to do so after the elections.

### **Salvation focus: Personnel managers**

These people have enormous influence because of their position. Pray that they will be reasonable with those under their supervision. Also pray for them for grace to handle difficult situations and to enforce discipline with all godliness. Pray for the salvation of those in personnel management in the organisations in our country.

### **Health focus: TB Forum in Brazil**

The third *Partner's Forum* will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, March 23-25, 2009. The Forum serves as a vehicle for bringing partners together to renew their commitment and intensify their efforts to reach the targets set out in the *Global Plan to Stop TB 2006-2015*. (Website: [http://www.stoptb.org/events/partners\\_forum/](http://www.stoptb.org/events/partners_forum/)). Please pray for this gathering, that Christians among delegates will promote and have favour to suggest godly principles as solutions to some of the problems.

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Tuesday 24 March 2009

**Election 2009 focus:** Pray for the Church to take responsibility in mobilising and calling Believers to pray for the country and the upcoming elections, not only now, but on a regular basis. Ask for pastors and other Christian leaders to take hands across denominational and ministry borders to pray for the elections and the country on a regular basis.

## **CRY OUT FOR THOSE WITHOUT A VOICE**

**Declare the truth:** *For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb (Ps.139:13).*

**Abortion:** This is the medical termination or deliberate ending of a pregnancy at any point before the full-term delivery date of the baby. About 46 million abortions take place each year; 126,000 abortions per day, 87 every minute, almost 2 every 3 seconds at an average of 1 abortion per woman worldwide. In some developing countries abortion is accepted as a primary birth control method. (*30 Days of Prayer for the Voiceless*, e-mail: [photogenx.kona@gmail.com](mailto:photogenx.kona@gmail.com)).

**Turn the tide in prayer:** Father God, we honour You as the One who forms us in the inward parts of our mothers. Please stir up Your heart's desire for unborn babies in the heart of every woman considering an abortion. Reveal to them Your everlasting love as their heavenly Father and Jesus Christ as their Deliverer.

**WWJD (What would Jesus do?):** See if you can find out how many abortions are taking place at hospitals and clinics in your community. Encourage people to come together in prayer and repentance before God about this and other issues. Ask Him to turn the tide of abortion in your community. Never stop praying that the law allowing abortion in our country will be revoked.

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Wednesday 25 March 2009

**Election 2009 focus:** Pray that leaders of political parties will have wisdom when they speak and make announcements in the media or when having rallies in residential and/or rural areas. Ask for the fear of God to rest on them as they make promises to an unsuspecting crowd, especially in poor areas.

## **CRY OUT FOR THOSE WITHOUT A VOICE**

**Declare the truth:** *So God created mankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them (Gen.1:27).*

**China:** China is the world's most populated country with over 1.3 billion people. The age-old bias towards boys, combined with the one-child policy imposed since 1980 has produced the largest, the highest, and the longest gender imbalance in the world. The male surplus rose to 120 boys for each 100 girls. Predictions for the next decade are that some 40 million Chinese men will be unable to find wives due to the scarcity of females as a result of kidnapping, trafficking and selective abortions. Women, up to 9 months pregnant with a second or third baby, may be taken to hospital by officials for induced abortions. (*30 Days of Prayer for the Voiceless*, e-mail: [photogenx.kona@gmail.com](mailto:photogenx.kona@gmail.com)).

**Turn the tide in prayer:** Father God, please reveal Your heart for men and women to the Chinese people and that lives will be valued with renewed respect. We cry out for the abortions to stop and this law to be relaxed. Also please protect young girls abducted for trafficking etc.

**WWJD (What would Jesus do?):** Find out how to support Christian adoption agencies in China. Ask God to give you wisdom on how you or your congregation can become involved in this situation abroad.

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Thursday 26 March 2009

**Election 2009 focus:** Pray for the *Electorate Committee Members* to be wise and effective in their work. Pray for the appointment of volunteers that will help during Election Day – that godly men and women will take up these positions.

## **CRY OUT FOR THOSE WITHOUT A VOICE**

**Declare the truth:** *The Lord passed before him, and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" (Ex.34:6).*

**Refugees:** A refugee is a person who flees his/her home to escape invasion, oppression or persecution. There are about 10.6 million refugees and 25.8 million internally displaced people (IDP) worldwide. About 75-80% of the world's refugees are women and children who are especially vulnerable to violence and exploitation by military and

immigration personnel. Asia and Africa host the majority of the world's refugees and 18.1 million IDP's. (*30 Days of Prayer for the Voiceless*, e-mail: [photogenx.kona@gmail.com](mailto:photogenx.kona@gmail.com)).

**Turn the tide in prayer:** Compassionate Father God, please comfort displaced people, heal their memories and emotions and give them a new home to live where they will be safe. Please stir up the Church everywhere to reach out and open their hearts to immigrants and refugees (**Lev.19:34**). Please also help the Church to discern whom to help and who wants to exploit their help, and also how to handle such difficult situations.

**WWJD (What would Jesus do?):** See if your cell group/group of friends can become involved in existing efforts to reach out to immigrants and refugees in your area. Make a special effort to pray for them on the streets/where they live.

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Friday 27 March 2009

**Election 2009 focus:** Pray for the police and all those in positions where they have to maintain law and order, to have favour from God and be effective in their jobs. Ask for Believers in such positions to operate with great confidence within their God-given spiritual authority when in difficult situations.

**Word focus: Precept Ministries SA**

In an effort to fulfil their mission of reaching everybody, everywhere, any time, any place, **any language** and any age, please pray with them as they translate *Precept* studies into Afrikaans and other African languages. The teams are working on these projects. Pray that God would lead the way for them to establish even more people with His awesome Word. *Precept Ministries* is a ministry that has been raised up by God to equip people in studying His Word. (*Precept Ministries S.A.*, P.O. Box 539, Howard Place, 7450. Tel./fax: 021 531 1836. Website: [www.precept.org.za](http://www.precept.org.za) or e-mail: [info@precept.org.za](mailto:info@precept.org.za)).

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Saturday 28 March 2009

**Economic focus: Household transformation**

Since 1994, due to population growth, the number of households in South Africa has increased by approximately four million. In spite of this pressure, 2.5 million subsidised houses have been completed or are in progress, providing shelter to some 8.8 million people, 73% of households have access to sanitation; compared to 50% in 1994; 72% of households have access to electricity, compared to 51% in 1994. (Website: <http://www.anc.org.za>). Give thanks to the Lord for these numbers. Continue to pray for more effectiveness with regard to these matters and for those involved to walk in uprightness and integrity.

**Focus on women: Abuse and neglect**

According to *The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)* one fifth, or close to half of the female population in a given country, has been abused by a family member or intimate partner, or they have been dangerously neglected in childhood. (Website: <http://tahirih.org/tahirih/howtohelp/assets/Statistics%20on%20Women%20Worldwide.doc>). Continue to pray that the tide of abuse of women and children will be stopped. Ask for every victim to have an opportunity to accept Christ as personal Saviour and find healing and restoration in His Name. Pray for those abusing them, to realise that their behaviour is wrong and that they will become truly willing to turn from their ways.

**ARTICLE: POVERTY**

Poverty is a growing problem and has been part of mankind for thousands of years and will be with us till the end of time. God gave us in the Church the task to take care of the poor and the destitute. It is so that God expects governments to rule justly and to care for the poor. However it is not, in the first place, the State's responsibility to care for the poor. When for example, we read the book of Proverbs, it is quite clear how God thinks about the poor and what His instructions are to Believers and non-Believers. However, taking care of the poor is primarily the responsibility of the Church.

Poverty has an incredibly degrading effect on people's lives. It often leads to total inferiority, a beggar's mentality, and people give up hope completely of working or looking for work because of repeated failure to stand up, look for work and earn an honest living. For most of the poor it's a matter of survival. Few other things matter. Yes, sin is rife among the poor, but there is not less sin among people who are not poor.

It serves no purpose quoting statistics on the number of poor people and their living conditions. We see it every day. The point is quite simply that we must do something about it. The most effective thing to do is firstly, to pray, but praying alone is not good enough. A number of guidelines follow that will help you pray for the poor:

- When we pray for the poor, we must understand first of all, that they did not necessarily contributed to be poor because they sinned or because they are too lazy to work or that they are simple-minded. The fact that someone was born in a squatter camp is for example not due to the fact that this person is bad or wicked or that he/she deserves it, or is stupid and lazy. Do not judge or make assumptions, God is the only one knowing everything.
- Read **Isaiah 58** and pray through the book. Focus on everything concerning poverty and use this as the basis for your prayer. Don't be judgmental when you pray, don't accuse people. Pray that God will be gracious and give deliverance.
- When you pray for the poor, pray with a broken heart and with compassion. Make sure there is no haughtiness in you, no feelings of superiority or condemnation. Share with the poor and don't begrudge them the same grace that God shows you. When we want to pray for the poor, the most important aspect of our prayer is the attitude of our hearts.
- Pray for systems and legislation that will prevent the poor from being exploited and misused. Pray for governments to make laws so that the poor can be helped.
- Millions of rands are made available in countries (by governments and foreign grants) towards caring for the poor. Worldwide statistics show that approximately 2% of the money made available in this way towards the upliftment of the poor actually reaches them. In some cases it is a little more, but normally an insignificant amount of the money reach the people who are in need. Pray that such fraud will come to light and that the poor will reap the benefits of the money.
- Pray for the Church that it will do more than what is done now. Most congregations have projects to care for the poor. The problem is however, that in most cases this is done by a few individuals in the congregation. Also, that church councils/governing boards don't make available considerable amounts of money for this and that the vast majority of church members are uninvolved. Pray that God the Father, through the working of the Holy Spirit will touch the hearts of more people in church councils/governing boards and more church members so that they will become actively involved in the needs of people.
- When we really pray from the heart for the needs of the poor, it is impossible not to become practically involved in the plight of these people. Each one of us can give a few rand extra a month, each one of us has an hour or two more a week that we can use to help the poor and the needy. If you don't know of an existing project, start one. Pray and ask the Lord's guidance. This is how all the other projects started. The Bible is very clear about it that God the Father has a heart for the poor and the destitute and therefore He will help us when we step out in faith and start doing something. Even if we start by helping one or two people and then expand with time, it is good enough.

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Sunday 29 March 2009

**Memorise**

*The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness" (Jer.31:3).*

### **Identity: Created to love ... Your God**

Jesus said to him, "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: "you shall love your neighbour as yourself" (Matt.22:37-39).

**Take a look around you:** You may know God from afar as Creator of heaven and earth, or personally as YOUR GOD. There are so many television programmes, books and audio teachings on Christianity, that most Christians know God through the teaching of others. Yet very few know God through personal experience and reading and studying the Word of God themselves. When trouble hits them, they quickly begin to doubt if God will do for them what He did for others. When this happens, a season starts when God, through the Holy Spirit, begins to teach us how to know God as MY GOD. Now He becomes real in my life and in my situation.

**Take a look inside you:** Do you experience God as 'real'? Do you believe what you believe because you had a personal experience of who He is? He wants to reveal Himself to you personally.

**Take a look at God:** Father, I have experienced Your love very personally from time to time. But, there is a hunger and a thirst in my heart to know You in an even more personal way. Help me to understand Your love for me. Show me Your face – the face of a Father who cares.

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Monday 30 March 2009

**Election 2009 focus:** Pray for wisdom for young people when making their voting decision and for people of all races to participate in the elections. Ask that all plans to undermine the elections will be exposed and that all bribery and schemes to influence the votes of people will be exposed and stopped.

### **Salvation focus: Drug lords/pushers**

Drug lords and drug pushers make loads of money at the expense of others. Many children that become involved in drug pushing continue to do so as they become older. They 'rise through the ranks' to hold more powerful positions over other drug pushers and thus get deeper involved in drug networks. Cry out to the Lord to deliver young children from dealing in drugs. Pray for older children that are already involved in drug networks and who want to break free – that they will be able to do so by the grace of God. Pray for the salvation of all drug dealers, and especially drug lords. Ask that they will turn around their lives and draw many others to also follow Christ.

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Tuesday 31 March 2009

**Election 2009 focus:** Pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit of prayer and supplication upon our nation, that people will cry out to Him night and day to turn the tide in our country. Pray for Christians to proclaim God's Scripture promises over our country, its people and its leaders.

### **CRY OUT FOR THOSE WITHOUT A VOICE**

**Declare the truth:** *He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in showing clemency (Micah 7:18b).*

**AIDS:** *Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome* is a serious, fatal disease of the immune system contracted through blood transfusions, sexual contact or contaminated needles used for injecting drugs. AIDS has killed more than 25 million people since 1981 – more than four Jewish holocausts or 22 Rwandan genocides. About 43% of those infected with HIV are women and there are 40.3 million people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide, of which one third is between 15-24 years old. (*30 Days of Prayer for the Voiceless*, e-mail: [photogenx.kona@gmail.com](mailto:photogenx.kona@gmail.com)).

**Turn the tide in prayer:** Father God, please show mercy and intervene in turning the tide of HIV/AIDS worldwide. Please pour out Your favour upon medical researches and doctors to discover a cure for HIV/AIDS. Also raise up bold men and women to speak the truth of Your Word on these issues.

**WWJD (What would Jesus do?):** Research the impact of AIDS on your community/sphere of influence. With a prayerful heart, ask the Lord how you can make known these facts to people and encourage them to cry out to God, kneeling on the promises in the Bible addressing similar issues.

**Word focus: Bible starvation**

For a billion people, the Bible is a 'luxury' they cannot afford. About 4,500 languages are still waiting for even one book of the Bible. Someone goes blind every five seconds worldwide, but the Bible in Braille exists in only 30 languages. (News Bytes, e-mail: [newsbytes@yahooogroups.com](mailto:newsbytes@yahooogroups.com)). Christ, Who are able to cause the blind to see, can also do it today, pray for such miracles!

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Wednesday 1 April 2009

**Election 2009 focus:** Pray for school children to gather at break times and even after school to take time to pray for the upcoming elections and our country. Also pray that students at all tertiary institutions will gather for regular times of prayer, crying out to God for the upcoming elections and our country.

**Salvation focus: Language barrier**

Only 3% of the world's people speak a language that does not yet have a gospel recording. (*Joshua Project*, website: <http://www.joshuaproject.net/> or e-mail: [info@joshuaproject.net](mailto:info@joshuaproject.net)). Continue to pray for Scripture to be translated into all the remaining languages within the next 10 years. Ask for God to raise up workers and equip them with understanding and insight to do this very important work.

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Thursday 2 April 2009

**Election 2009 focus:** Pray for Believers in prison to schedule regular times of prayer for the elections, to declare God's Word and promises for spiritual breakthrough all over our country.

**Health focus: New tool to diagnose drug-resistant TB**

Clinical trials of a new molecular technique have found it to be effective at quickly identifying multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) in resource-poor settings. South Africa's National Health Laboratory Service and *Medical Research Council (MRC)*, and the *Foundation for Innovative Diagnostics (FIND)* collaborated to test 30,000 patients suspected to have MDR-TB in South Africa between 2007 and 2008. It is the first of its kind to be used against TB and the first new tool for TB in 50 years according to acting director of the TB Epidemiology and Intervention Research Unit at the MRC. (Website: <http://www.scidev.net/en/health/tuberculosis/news/powerful-new-tool-to-diagnose-drug-resistant-tb.html>). Give thanks to God for answering prayers for scientific breakthroughs.

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Friday 3 April 2009

**Election 2009 focus:** Pray that cities and towns will call for half-nights and other prayer vigils to pray for the upcoming elections and our country. Ask that churches and Christian ministries will initiate and implement definite and regular times of prayer for the upcoming elections and our country.

**Word focus: Book of Hope**

In Italy, in spite of boasting a Christian population, very few Italians have a true relationship with Christ. However, a church in Palermo, Italy, is praying that the situation will change as they distribute 2,500 copies of the *Book of Hope*. Since many in the church are teachers, they've introduced the book to the religion teachers. Now many have adopted the *Book of Hope* as the official religion hour book. Pray that many kids will respond to its saving message. (Lars Widerberg, Intercessors Network, Storskiftesgatan 87, S-58334 Linköping, Sweden. E-mail: [Intercessors.Network@Comhem.se](mailto:Intercessors.Network@Comhem.se) or [Intercessors.Network@Telia.com](mailto:Intercessors.Network@Telia.com)).

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Saturday 4 April 2009

### **Youth focus: Teens and children**

The South African youth experience double the rate of violence than adults do. Children and youths in South Africa are vulnerable because of the violent communities they live in. They are often victims of violence but they also live with violence, meaning they begin to accept that violence is a way to solve problems. Being involved in recreational activities gives children a sense of hope, purpose and self-esteem, and creates an environment for healthy relationships. (HEARTLINES, tel.: 011 771 2540. Website: <http://www.heartlines.org.za> or e-mail: [info@heartlines.org.za](mailto:info@heartlines.org.za)). Give thanks to God for many initiatives already running and making a difference. Ask the Lord how you or your church can join in similar activities.

### **Breast-cancer recurrence risk low after 5 years**

Women who survive five years after being diagnosed with breast cancer have a good chance of remaining cancer-free, a new study shows. In the most detailed study of its kind, a new report shows 89% of these women remain disease-free 10 years after diagnosis, and 81 percent are cancer-free after 15 years. (Website: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/08/13/20080813breastcancer0813.html?source=nletter>). Give thanks to the Lord for answering and granting significant breakthroughs in specifically breast cancer research. Continue to pray for this tide that is killing women, to be stopped completely within the next 10 years.

### **Women-2-Pray: Teaching your children to pray**

You do not teach a child to pray in one day. It will take times of discussion with them, demonstrations, and practice – letting them do it themselves. Most of all, they learn to pray by hearing you pray. Children do what they see others do. The following are some ideas on how to encourage a lifestyle of prayer in the lives of your children. Teach them to speak to God as if He is real (which He in fact is), and they will be speaking to Him a lot!

1. **Be honest in prayer:** We can teach children to say 'thank you', 'sorry' and 'please' to God in the same way that we teach them to say these things to us. We can help them to learn how to forgive others and very importantly, themselves. It is not always that easy, but it is important for children to know they can be honest with God and tell Him what they find difficult. In this way they learn to ask God to help them *want* to forgive.
2. **Praying in the family:** Family prayer times can be times of stress or joy. Know you will pass through these phases, and do not become discouraged. Pray before meals. Make sure you pray together as a family – all members included – at least once a week. Give everyone a turn to pray, no matter how simple their prayers.
3. **Praying all the time:** When they come to you with a problem, listen carefully. Ask them questions on how they think the situation can be changed for the better. Guide them if they struggle with this. Give them a moment and then tell them to ask God right there and then. It is important that you say a prayer as an example, but it is equally important to let them pray themselves. This way they learn how to pray themselves when facing trouble or difficult situations.
4. **Praying in sickness:** Children believe anything is possible until doubting adults explain to them that it is not! There are no better prayer warriors for the sick than children. Jesus said that we have to come to Him like children. Whenever a member of the household is not feeling well, make a special effort to pray also for one another, so that prayer for the sick will become part of their lifestyle.
5. **Praying can be singing:** Children love to sing. Singing to God is a very important part of prayer. It teaches them to worship God for who He is, and not only for what He can do for them. Make sure you sing a lot to God in the house, whether you sing known worship songs or just spontaneous singing about who God is. It will teach them to sing to God themselves.
6. **Praying while reading:** All small children love books. Ask God how you can capture their attention with the Bible. Make sure you read from the Bible to them on a regular basis. Also take care not to read to them only from children's Bibles, but sometimes from your own Bible. Try to make it applicable to practical situations and then ask them to pray about it.

7. **Do your homework:** See if you can join up with other mothers and form a group of children getting together once a week or from time to time. Take turns to work out a prayer theme for each week, something the children can do together. There are a lot of resources with ideas to teach children on prayer. Make sure you make a special effort to invest in your children's lives.

8. **Pray the Word:** Help them proclaim and pray Scripture over everyday issues. It will work for you too! Here are a few suggestions:

**When God feels far away:** *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you (Jas.4:8).*

**When they struggle to believe God:** *Lord, I believe; help me overcome my unbelief! (Mk.9:24).*

**When they are afraid:** *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind (2 Tim.1:7).*

**When they feel discouraged:** *Why are you downcast, O my soul? ...Put your hope in God (Ps.42:5).*